(c) and (d) The targets of production set by these aluminium producing companies for the year 2000 A.D. is given below:-

(Tonnes)

Name	2000 AD
NALCO	230000
BALCO	95000
HINDALCO	242000
INDAL	63000
MALCO	26531

Status of Bailadila Iron Ore Deposits

526. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the latest status of Bailadila Iron Ore deposits leased to a private company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): Based on the Government approval for development of Bailadila iron ore deposit 11-B in the joint venture, NMDC signed a joint venture agreement with Nippon Denro Ispat Limited (NDIL) now Ispat Industries Ltd. on 10th July, 1995 and a new Joint Venture (JV) Company in the name & style of M/s. Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. (BMDC) was incorporated on 31st July, 1995. Further, NDMC submitted an application on 26.8.1995 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for transfer of 11-B mining lease in favour of the JV company.

On the recommendation of the Government of Madhya Pradesh which was subject to certain conditions, the Ministry of Mines approved the proposal on 21st March, 1996 subject to observance of the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and also that the State Govt. the proposed joint venture company, i.e. Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. and NMDC should arrive at a uniform and agreed set of conditions for the transfer of lease and incorporate them in an agreement or any other appropriate legal instrument that may be executed amongst the parties.

Meanwhile, the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta has stayed on the decision to transfer the lease of Bailadila iron ore deposit 11-B in favour of joint venture company on 16.4.96 on a public interest petition filed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy, M.Ps. However, the writ petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble High Court on grounds of jurisdiction on 10.5.96. But the operation of the order was stayed by the Hon'ble High Court for a period of three weeks upto 31.5.1996. On a petition by the JV Company against this order, the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court ordered that the interim stay granted by the learned judge will remain suspended till the disposal of the appeal preferred by the Company and the appeal preferred by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta against the order dismissing the original writ petition on jurisdiction grounds. The case was listed for hearing on 8.1.1998 in Calcutta High Court but the same did not come up.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was also filed in the High Court of Delhi in July, 1996 against the transfer of Bailadila iron ore deposit 11-B. The hearing in the case concluded on 22.9.97 and the judgement has been reserved. The case is sub-judice.

North-Eastern Mineral Development Fund

527. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a Task Force for channelising the mineral riches of the North-East region;

(b) if so, the measures recommended by the Task force for creating the North-Eastern Mineral Development Fund; and

(c) whether Government are preparing a blue print for mineral possibilities and ways to exploit them and have identified the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Task Force has recommended that a separate fund for the development of mineral resources in North-Eastern States should be created under the Ministry of Mines named as "North-Eastern Mineral Development Fund" (NEMDF). As per the recommendations, the

fund would consist of budgetary support from the Ministry of Mines and contribution by the profit making Central Public Sector Undertakings engaged in exploration and exploitation of mineral resources, ferrous, non-ferrous as well as coal, lignite and oil and gas to be linked to their net profit.

(c) In the report submitted by the Task Force for development of mineral industry in the North-Eastern States, candidate mineral deposits have been identified for quick exploitation, besides exploration status of known mineral resources of North-Eastern Region and action for accelerating development and industrialisation in the North-Eastern Region. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) regularly takes up investigations for exploring various mineral occurrences in the Region. Investigations are currently on for limestone in Jaintia Hills District, Meghayala, resource survey for dimensional stones in Meghalaya, and graphite in Arunachal Pradesh. Programme for appraisal of mineral/natural resource potential development on cadastral map base have also been initiated by GSI in the State of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. Exploration and exploitation of minerals is a continuous process depending upon the availability of prospects in the country including North-Eastern Region which is a priority area to the Central Government agencies.

Sickness of VSP

528. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is likely to become sick;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production of the company during last three years, year-wise and the capacity utilisation as on date;

(d) whether the Management has been requesting Central Government to convert the company's loan into equity;

(e) if so, the number of times the management requested on that score and the reaction of Government thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures being taken to revive the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of production and capacity utilisation during the last three years are as follows:

Production (in '000 tonnes)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Liquid steel	2380	2420	2540
Saleable Steel	2136	2136	2250
Capacity utilisation (%)			
Liquid Steel	79	81	85
Saleable Steel	80	80	85

(d) and (e) The proposal of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) to convert their loans into equity has recently been considered by Government and it has been decided to give the following financial reliefs to the Company:

(i) conversion of Rs. 791 crore interest free loan to 7% non-cumulative redeemable preference capital, redeemable after 2000-01; and

(ii) conversion of Rs. 542.47 crore of loan advanced to RINL from 1993-94 to 1995-96 into 7% non-cumulative preference capital redeemable after 10 years.

(f) In view of 'a' & 'b' above, does not arise.

Revival and Modernisation of IISCO

529. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for revival and modernisation of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) has been pending with Government for a long time; and

(b) if so, the present state of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (IISCO) was referred to BIFR in June 1994. Various schemes/proposals for revival and modernisation of IISCO were